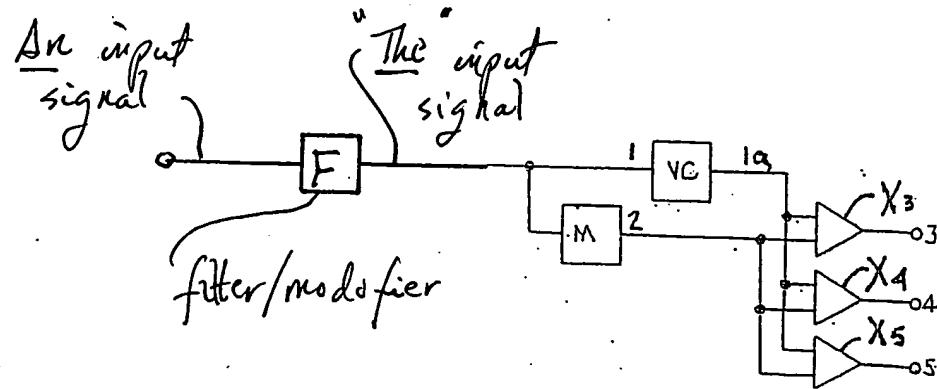
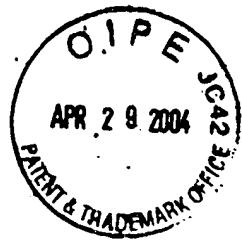


REMARKS

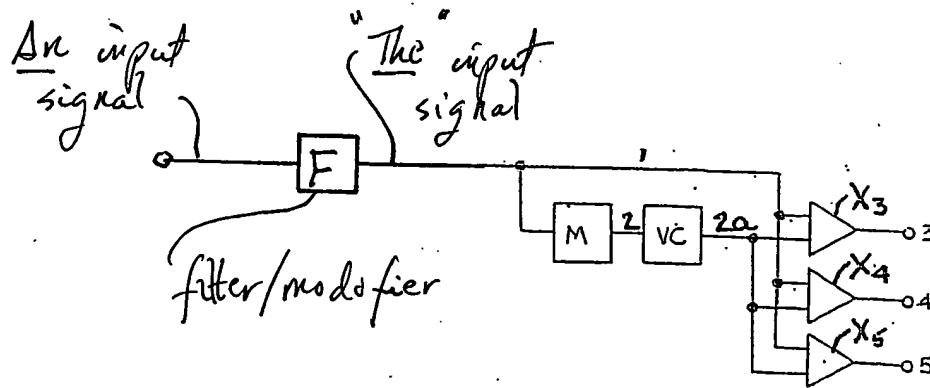
The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C.,102(b) as anticipated by Berkovitz.

Applicant distinguished Berkovitz in detail in the communication dated December 8, 2004. The Examiner disagrees with applicant's arguments because, according to the Examiner, claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 do not call for the input signal to be directly connected to the mixers. The Examiner states that applicant's "filtered input signal is part of the input signal and can be broadly read as an input signal." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

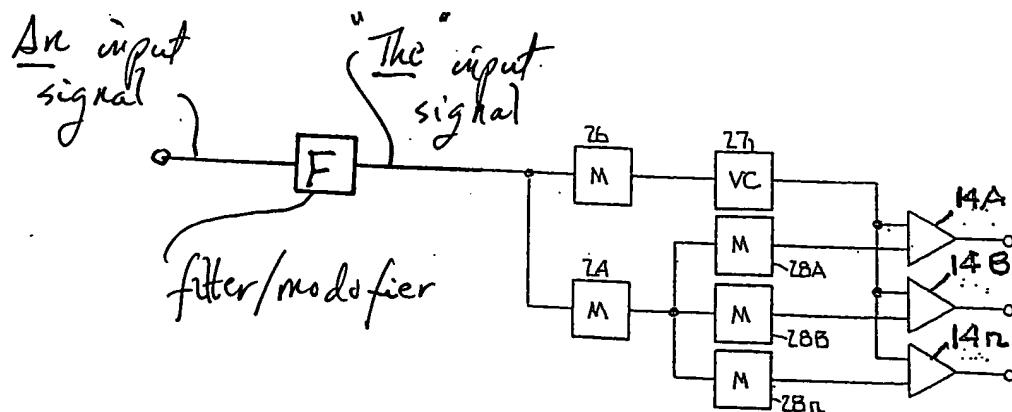
It is irrelevant to applicant's claims how the input signal is derived. However that signal is derived, applicant's invention starts by "receiving the input signal." "The" input signal is modified to produce a second signal. According to claims 2 and 3, "the" input signal is then variably controlled and the variably controlled signal is mixed with a modified signal to produce the desired output signals. According to claims 6 and 7, the modified signal is variably controlled and mixed with "the" input signal to produce the desired output signals. If, as the Examiner suggests, an input signal is derived by modifying or filtering a previous signal, then the modified or filtered previous signal becomes "the" input signal of applicant's claims. Berkovitz does not do this. Berkovitz takes "the" input signal (which may be some modification of a prior signal achieved by filtering or other means) and modifies it twice, once for application to the variable control device and once for further modification before going to the mixers. Two modified signals are thereafter used and "the" input signal is not used again. Perhaps this can best be understood by reference to the following sketches, using the Examiner's line of thinking and applying it to the claimed invention and to Berkovitz:



Sketch 1



Sketch 2



Sketch 3

Sketch 1 combines the Examiner's view with applicant's invention as set forth in claims 2 and 3. Sketch 2 combines the Examiner's view with applicant's invention as set forth in claims 6 and 7. Sketch 3 combines the Examiner's view with Berkovitz.

The root of the problem may be the Examiner's premise that part of an input signal is the same as an input signal. They are not. Applicant's claims accurately describe what happens to "the" input signal. Applicant's claims do not call for mixing components of "the" input signal. Applicant's claims call for mixing "the" input signal (or "the" input signal variably controlled) with a modification of the same input signal. Berkovitz teaches mixing first and second modifications of the same input signal, neither of which is the "the" input signal. This is not what is taught by applicant.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Berkovitz and allowance of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 is respectfully requested.

It is understood there is no fee due at this time. However, should a fee deficiency have occurred, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1971 per 37 C.F.R. § 1.25.

Respectfully submitted,

 4/26/04

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